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the **X-MEN**



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THE
MIMIC!"**



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X-MEN! THE MOST UNUSUAL FIGHTING TEAM OF ALL TIME!

"Re-enter: THE MIMIC!"

NOPE, MARVELITE... YOU HAVEN'T MISSED AN ISH! WONDEROUS WERNER JUST DECIDED TO START THIS WAY-OUT YARN IN THE MIDDLE... AND WHO ARE WE TO SAY HIM NAY? (BUT, DON'T DESPAIR... WE'LL FILL YA IN AS WE GO ALONG, TIGER...)

THE LAST TIME WE FOUGHT, YOU BEAT ME BY **TRICKERY!*** BUT, THAT ISN'T GONNA HAPPEN AGAIN!

HE'S BACK... AND HE SEEMS STRONGER... MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER!

MAYBE YOU CAN IMITATE ALL OUR POWERS, MIMIC... BUT I'M BETTIN' WE CAN STILL TAKE YOU!

DON'T GET OVER-CONFIDENT, BOBBY! REMEMBER... HE ALSO POSSESSES WINGS, LIKE THE CON-VALESCENT ANGEL!

YOU **MUST** DEFEAT HIM, MY X-MEN! FOR, I SENSE THAT THERE IS MUCH **MORE** AT STAKE HERE THAN MERE **PRESTIGE!**

*WAY BACK IN ISH #19... OUR LATE, GREAT X-MEN EPIC!
... SENTIMENTAL SAULEY.

IF IT'S A **BATTLE ROYAL** YOU WANT, MISTER... YOU'VE GOT IT! YOU'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE **FOUR** OF US!

WHY DO YOU THINK I'M **HERE**, CREEP? LET'S GET AT IT... I AIN'T GOT ALL DAY!

AND NOW, HASTILY, BEFORE WE FORGET 'EM AMIDST THE PULSATING PANDEMONIUM TO FOLLOW, IT'S CREDITS TIME:

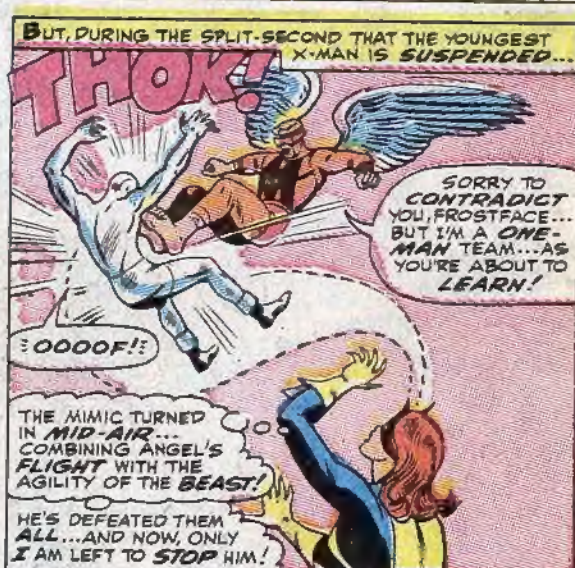
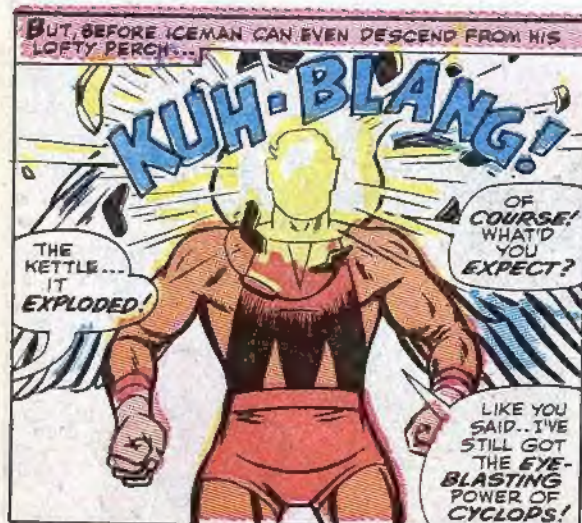
EDITED BY STAN LEE
SCRIPTED BY ROY THOMAS
DRAWN BY WERNER ROTH
INKED BY DICK AYERS
LETTERED BY SAM ROSEN
(WOULDJA BELIEVE ARTIE SIMKE?)

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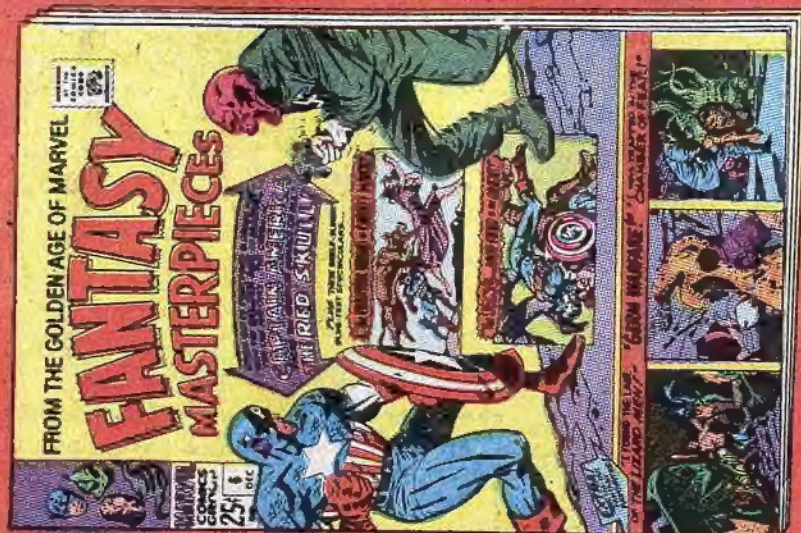
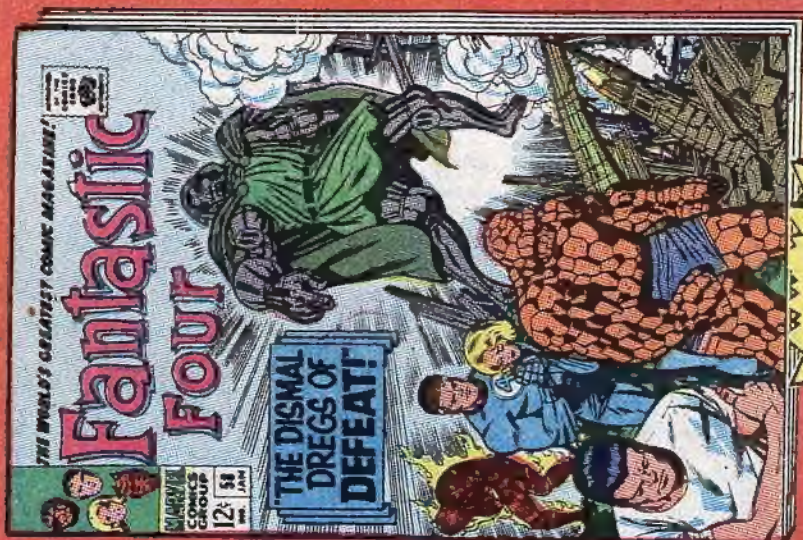
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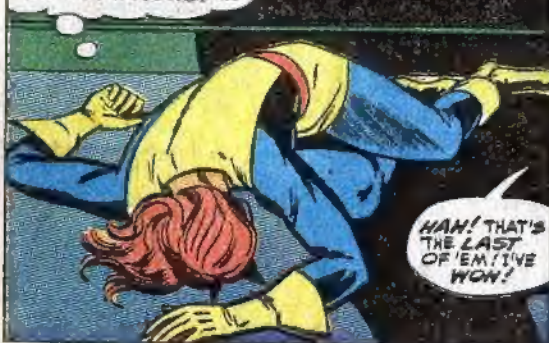
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SCANT SECONDS LATER, HELPLESS BEFORE ONE WHO POSSESSES THE MENTAL FROWESS OF THE X-MEN'S MENTOR, JEAN GREY CRUMPLES TO THE FLOOR...

CAN'T... FIGHT BACK... ANY MORE! GETTING DROWSY... SO VERY DROWSY...



HAN! THAT'S THE LAST OF 'EM! I'VE WON!

I TOOK ON THE WHOLE LOT OF 'EM WITH THEIR OWN SUPER-POWERS... AND I MADE 'EM SAY UNCLE!



FROM NOW ON, NOTHING AND NOBODY IN THE WORLD WILL STOP... THE DAMAGE!

MORE CONFUSED THAN EVER? OKAY, PUSSYCAT... IF YOU'VE STAYED WITH US THIS LONG, YOU DESERVE AN EXPLANATION OF HOW AND WHY THE MALEVOLENT, MIND-STAGGERING MIMIC HAS RETURNED... NOT TO MENTION WHERE OUR MISTREATED MUTANTS PICKED UP THEIR NEW THREADS AND SUNDRY RELATED ITEMS! SO, STICK AROUND...

...FOR, TO PICK UP OUR TITANIC TALE AT THE BEGINNING (AT LAST), WE TURN BACK THE CLOCK TO THE HOUR WHEN FOUR EXHAUSTED X-MEN RETURNED FROM THEIR CATASTROPHIC MEETING WITH THE DREAD KUKULCAN.*

EASY WITH WARREN, ALL OF YOU! ANY SUDDEN MOVEMENT MIGHT DO IRREPARABLE HARM TO HIS DAMAGED WINGS!

DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR! I WON'T DROP MY END OF THE STRETCHER!

I NEEDN'T READ CYCLOPS' MIND TO SENSE THAT SCOTT IS FILLED WITH GUILT AND SELF-DOUBT... FOR, IT WAS HIS OPTIC BLAST THAT WOUNDED ANGEL.

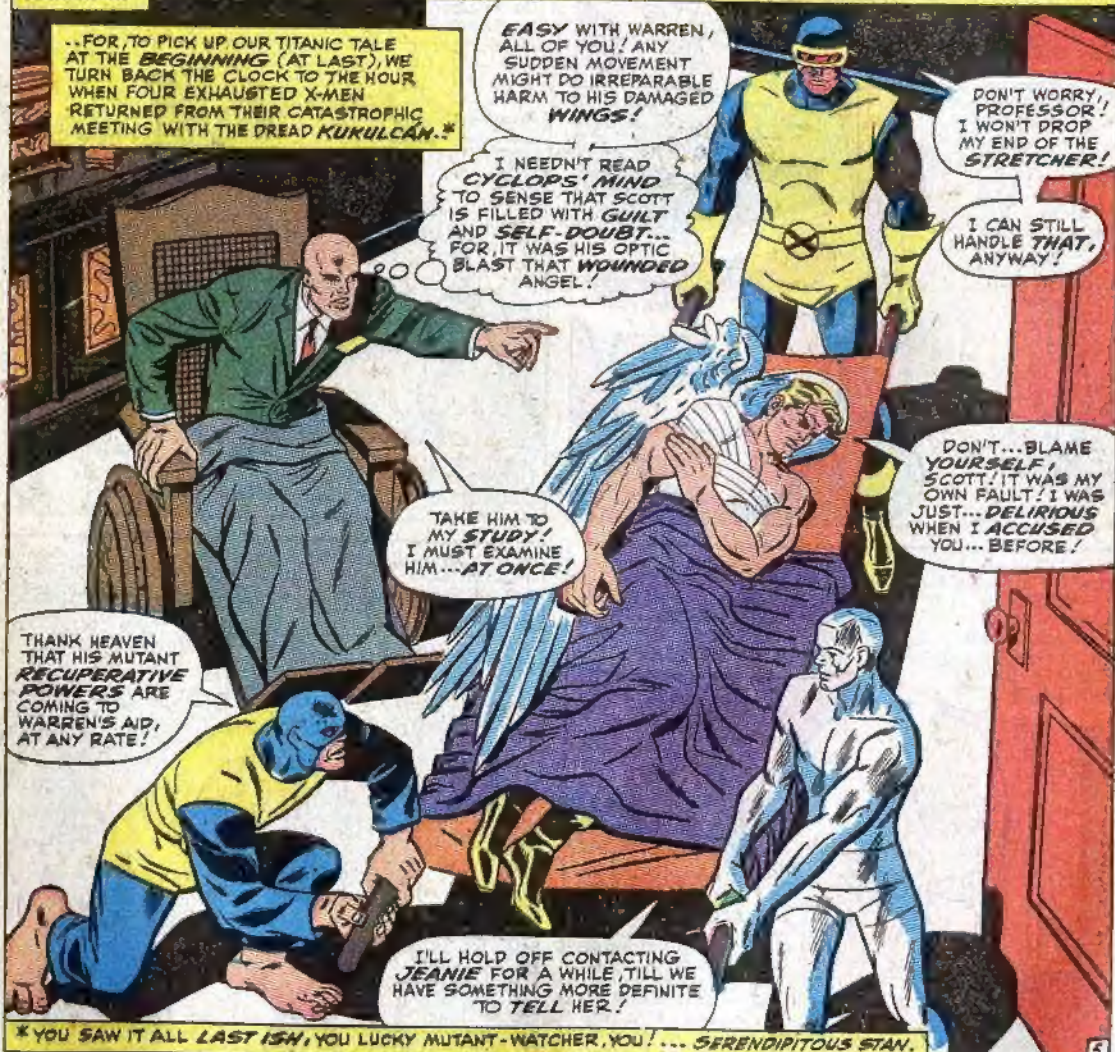
I CAN STILL HANDLE THAT, ANYWAY!

TAKE HIM TO MY STUDY! I MUST EXAMINE HIM... AT ONCE!

DON'T... BLAME YOURSELF, SCOTT! IT WAS MY OWN FAULT! I WAS JUST... DELIRIOUS WHEN I ACCUSED YOU... BEFORE!

THANK HEAVEN THAT HIS MUTANT RECUPERATIVE POWERS ARE COMING TO WARREN'S AID, AT ANY RATE!

I'LL HOLD OFF CONTACTING JEANIE FOR A WHILE, TILL WE HAVE SOMETHING MORE DEFINITE TO TELL HER!



* YOU SAW IT ALL LAST ISH, YOU LUCKY MUTANT-WATCHER, YOU! ... SERENDIPITOUS STAN.

WATCH MARVEL SUPER-HEROES ON TV

SOON, BEHIND THE CLOSED DOOR OF PROFESSOR X'S SANCTUM SANCTORUM...



I... I'VE GOT TO KNOW, SIR! WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO FLY AGAIN?

I SHOULD KNOW WITHIN A FEW MINUTES, WARREN!

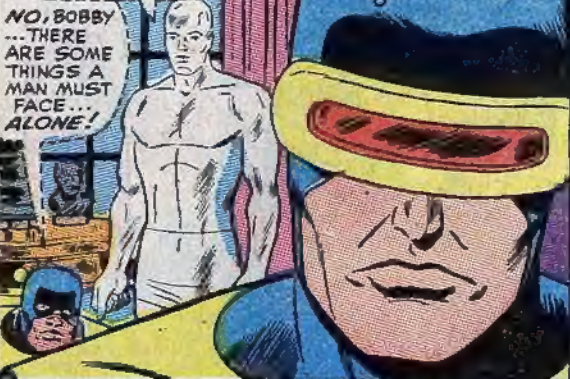
AND, REST ASSURED, I'LL WITHHOLD NOTHING FROM YOU!

AND, WHAT OF JEAN... THE GIRL I LOVE? I HAD PLANNED TO TELL HER OF MY FEELINGS WHEN I RETURNED!

BUT NOW, WILL I EVER BE ABLE TO CONVINCE HER... AND MYSELF... THAT, SUBCONSCIOUSLY, I DIDN'T WANT ANGEL ELIMINATED... AS A RIVAL?

CYKE MUST BE GOING THROUGH TORTURE! HANK! CAN'T WE...?

NO, BOBBY... THERE ARE SOME THINGS A MAN MUST FACE... ALONE!



YES, HANK, I'M AFRAID YOU'RE CORRECT! THE TENDONS AND LIGAMENTS WHICH CONTROL WARREN'S WINGS WERE SEVERELY JOLTED BY THE OPTIC BLAST!

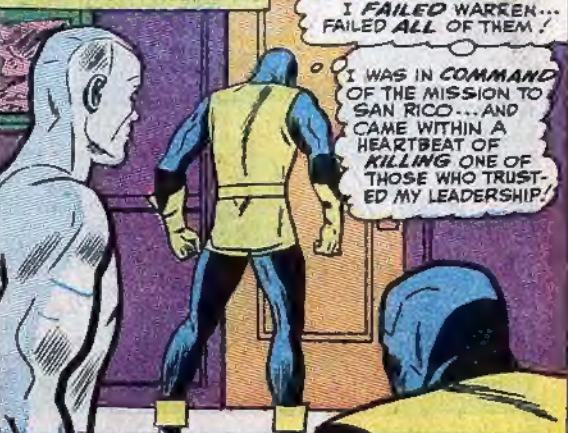
I'VE GIVEN HIM A SEDATIVE FOR NOW! BUT, UNLESS HE RECEIVES COMPLETE REST... HE MAY LOSE FOREVER HIS POWER OF FLIGHT!



AND, WORST OF ALL... WHILE YOU WERE GONE TO SAN RICO... I RECEIVED WARNING THROUGH CEREBRO OF A NEW MUTANT MENACE... ONE WHICH MAY BE THE GREATEST WE HAVE EVER ENCOUNTERED...

YET, IT COMES AT A TIME WHEN OUR FIGHTING STRENGTH IS AT ITS LOWEST EBB!

THEN, AS THE MULTI-TRAINED MIND OF CHARLES XAVIER BEGINS ITS THOROUGH EXAMINATION, A YOUTH WAITS OUTSIDE WHO IS, IF POSSIBLE, EVEN MORE ANXIOUS ABOUT THE OUTCOME...



I FAILED WARREN... FAILED ALL OF THEM!

I WAS IN COMMAND OF THE MISSION TO SAN RICO... AND CAME WITHIN A HEARTBEAT OF KILLING ONE OF THOSE WHO TRUSTED MY LEADERSHIP!

WITH LEADEN STEP, THE HOURS GO FAST SLOWLY... ALMOST IMPERCEPTIBLY! FINALLY, AFTER WHAT SEEMS AN ETERNITY OF TIME, THE DOOR OPENS AND THE PALE, TIRED FIGURE OF PROFESSOR XAVIER EMERGES...



SIR... TELL ME... US! IS HE...?

HE'LL RECOVER, SCOTT!

HALLELUJAH!

BUT... THERE'S MORE!

WHAT IS IT, PROFESSOR? I DEDUCE FROM YOUR GRIM COUNTEenance IT'S BAD NEWS!

BUT, THE PRECISE MEANING OF THE PROFESSOR'S PORTENTOUS WORDS MUST WAIT FOR THE PRESENT... AS WE SWITCH OUR SCENE TEMPORARILY TO METRO COLLEGE...



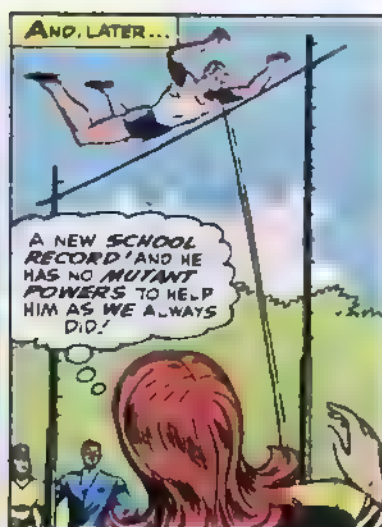
...WHERE LOVELY JEAN GREY, UNAWARE OF THESE STARTLING DEVELOPMENTS, IS ENJOYING A TRACK TRAINING SESSION!

COME ON, TED... RUN! YOU CAN DO IT!



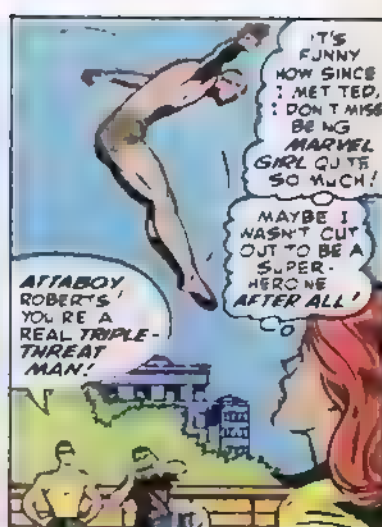
THE NEXT MOMENT...

HE WON! I KNOW IT'S ONLY A PRACTICE RUN, BUT NOTHING'S THRILLED ME THIS WAY SINCE I LEFT THE X-MEN!

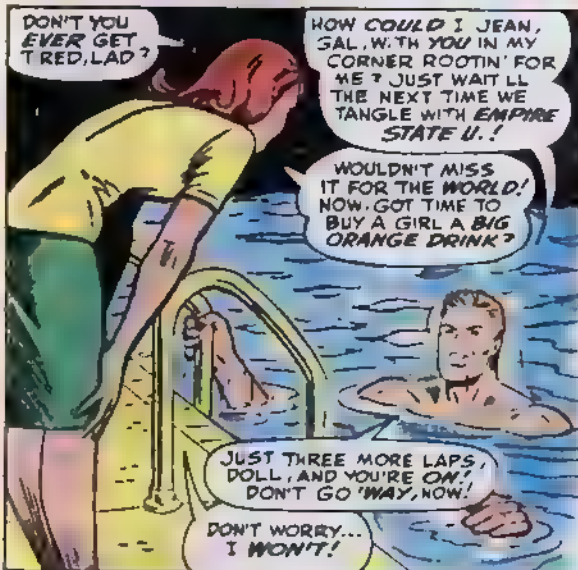


AND, LATER...

A NEW SCHOOL RECORD! AND HE HAS NO MUTANT POWERS TO HELP HIM AS WE ALWAYS DID!



ATTABOY, ROBERTS! YOU'RE A REAL TRIPLE-THREAT MAN!



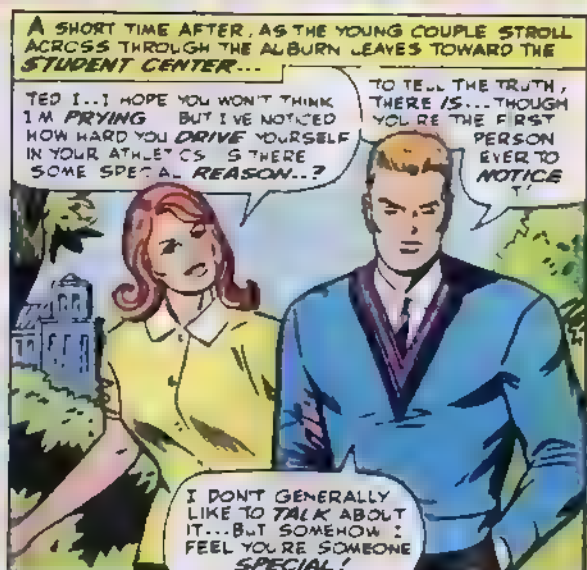
DON'T YOU EVER GET TIRED, LAD?

HOW COULD I JEAN, GAL, WITH YOU IN MY CORNER ROOTIN' FOR ME? JUST WAIT 'TIL THE NEXT TIME WE TANGLE WITH EMPIRE STATE U.!

WOULDN'T MISS IT FOR THE WORLD! NOW, GOT TIME TO BUY A GIRL A BIG ORANGE DRINK?

JUST THREE MORE LAPS, DOLL, AND YOU'RE ON! DON'T GO AWAY, NOW!

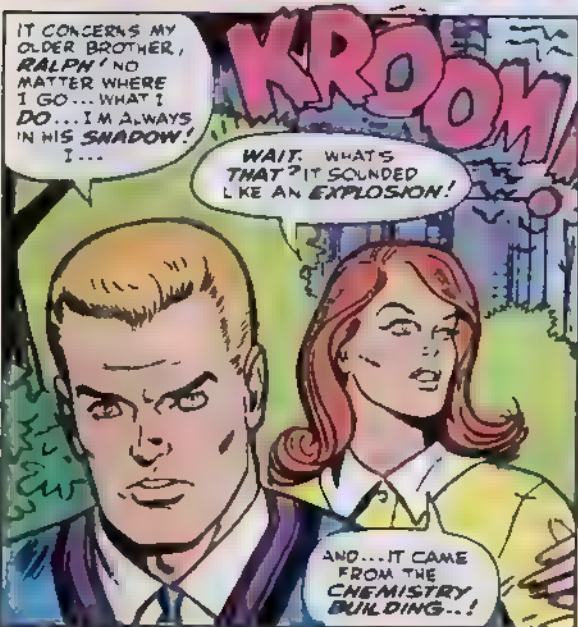
DON'T WORRY... I WON'T!



TED I... I HOPE YOU WON'T THINK I'M FRYING, BUT I'VE NOTICED HOW HARD YOU DRIVE YOURSELF IN YOUR ATHLETICS. IS THERE SOME SPECIAL REASON...?

TO TELL THE TRUTH, THERE IS... THOUGH YOU'RE THE FIRST PERSON EVER TO NOTICE!

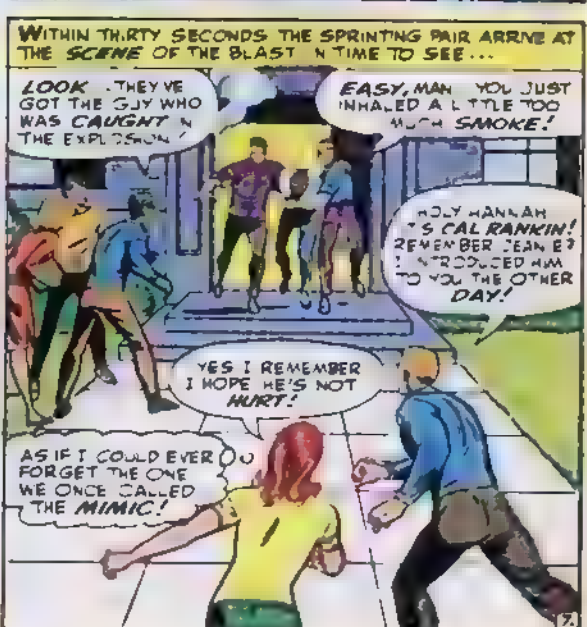
I DON'T GENERALLY LIKE TO TALK ABOUT IT... BUT SOMEHOW I FEEL YOU'RE SOMEONE SPECIAL!



IT CONCERNS MY OLDER BROTHER, RALPH. NO MATTER WHERE I GO... WHAT I DO... I'M ALWAYS IN HIS SHADOW! I...

WAIT. WHAT'S THAT? IT SOUNDED LIKE AN EXPLOSION!

AND... IT CAME FROM THE CHEMISTRY BUILDING...!



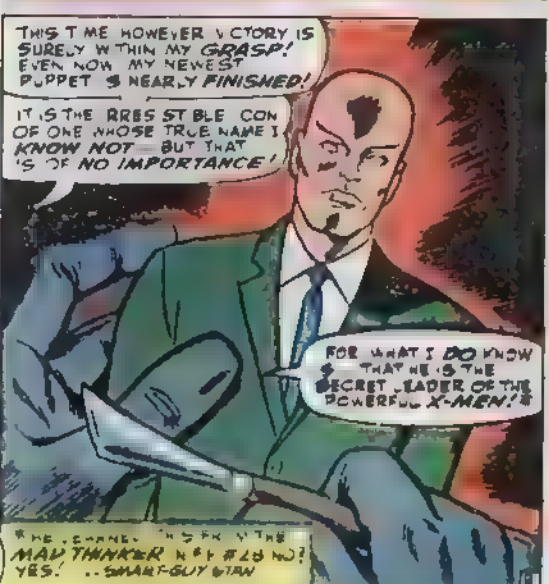
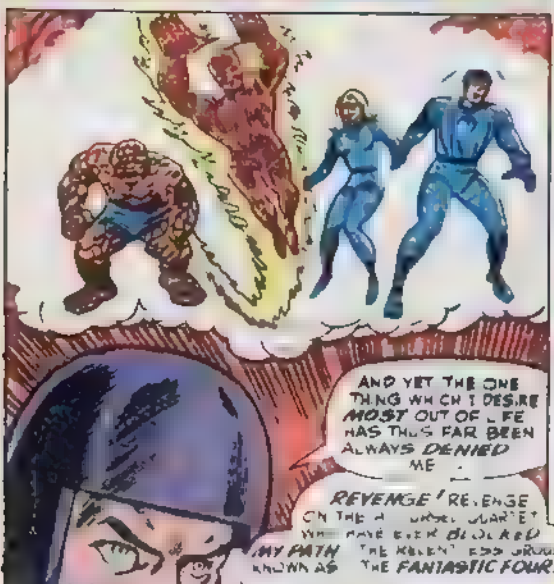
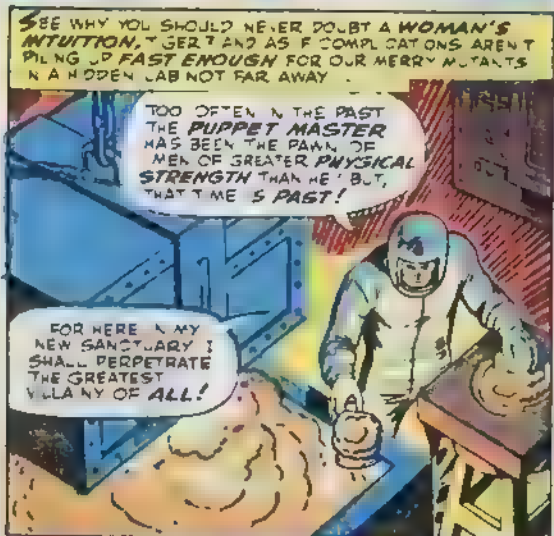
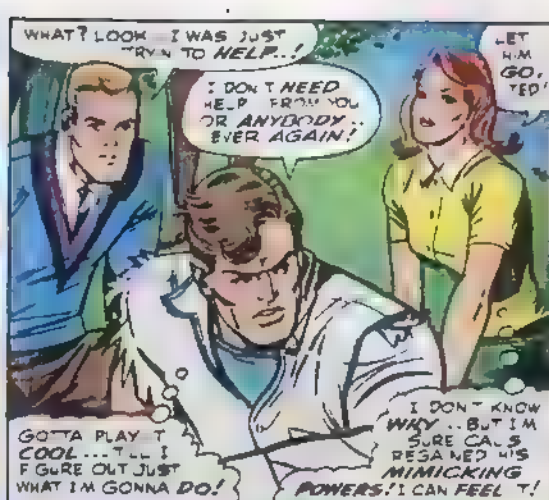
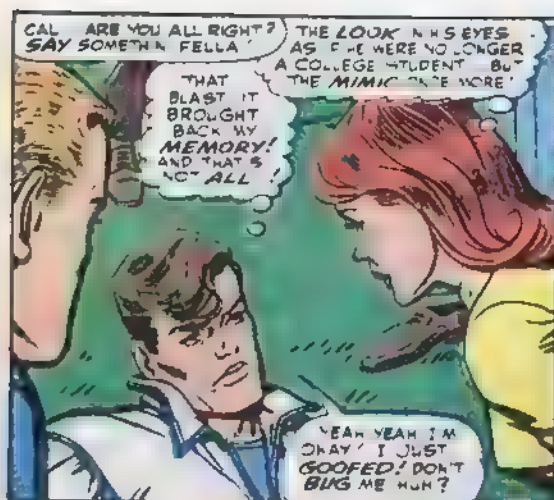
LOOK, THEY'VE GOT THE GUY WHO WAS CAUGHT IN THE EXPLOSION!

EASY, MAN. YOU JUST INHALED A LITTLE TOO MUCH SMOKE!

HOLY HANNAH! 'TIS CAL RANKIN! REMEMBER JEAN? I INTRODUCED HIM TO YOU THE OTHER DAY!

YES I REMEMBER I HOPE HE'S NOT HURT!

AS IF I COULD EVER FORGET THE ONE WE ONCE CALLED THE MIMIC!



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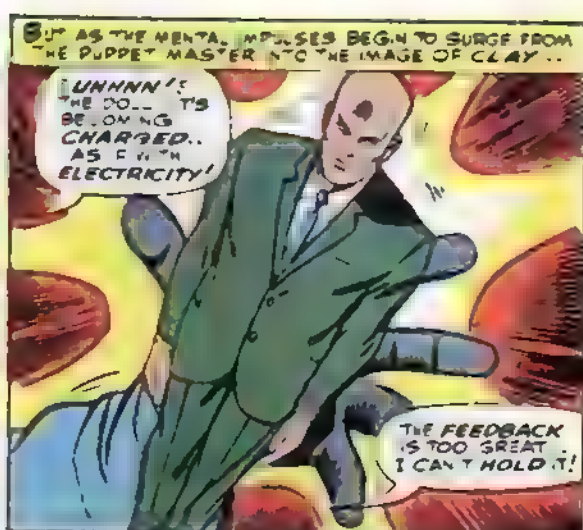
CITY _____ STATE _____



AND NOW MY NEWEST PUPPET IS READY. READY TO GIVE ME INSTANTANEOUS SWAY OVER THE MUTANTS' MENTOR!

THEN THEY SHALL STRIKE AT THE HATED FANTASTIC FOUR IN MY NAME!

FOR HE WHO CONTROLS THE MYSTERIOUS PROFESSOR X, CONTROLS THE X-MEN!



BUT AS THE MENTAL IMPULSES BEGIN TO SURGE FROM THE PUPPET MASTER INTO THE IMAGE OF CLAY...

UNNNN! HE'S DOING IT! BECOMING CHARGED... AS WITH ELECTRICITY!

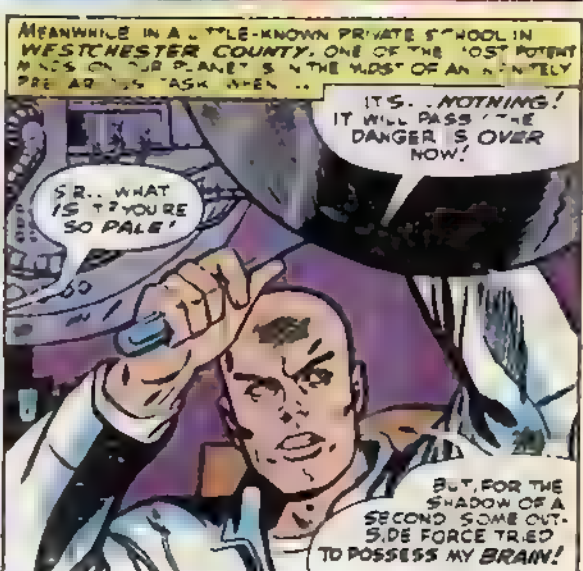
THE FEEDBACK IS TOO GREAT! I CAN'T HOLD IT!



IT CAN ONLY BE THAT MY WOULD BE VICTIM HAS ERECTED A PSYCHIC SHIELD AGAINST SUCH ATTACKS SINCE OUR LAST ENCOUNTER THE PUPPET IS USELESS TO ME

BUT I SHALL SEEK ANOTHER TO DOE ME. ONE WHO HAS NO SUCH MENTAL DEFENSES!

FOR MY VENGEANCE WILL BE DONE NO LONGER!

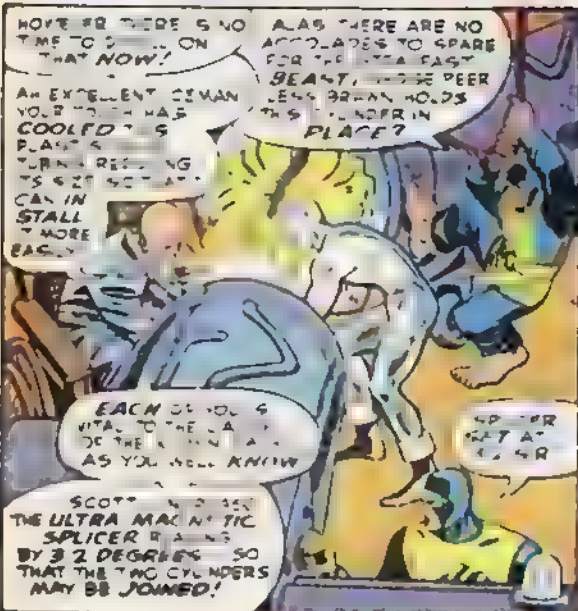


MEANWHILE IN A LITTLE-KNOWN PRIVATE SCHOOL IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY, ONE OF THE MOST POTENT MINDS ON OUR PLANET IS IN THE MIDDLE OF AN INFINITELY PRE-ARRANGED TASK WHEN...

IT'S... NOTHING! IT WILL PASS! THE DANGER IS OVER NOW!

SIR... WHAT IS IT? YOU'RE SO PALE!

BUT, FOR THE SHADOW OF A SECOND SOME OUTSIDE FORCE TRIED TO POSSESS MY BRAIN!



HOPE FOR THERE IS NO TIME TO WASTE ON THAT NOW!

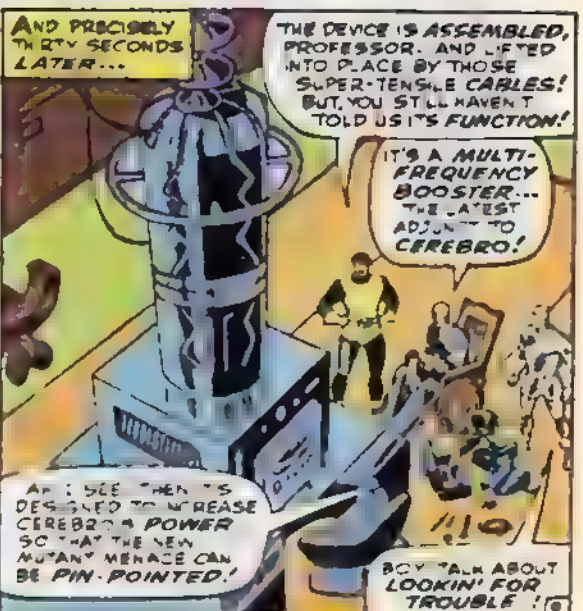
AN EXCELLENT CYMAN YOUR MIND HAS COOLED THIS PLANET'S TURNING INTO A HOT SPOT! CAN IT STALL MORE EASILY?

ALAS THERE ARE NO ACCADEMIES TO SPARE FOR THE MENTAL FAST BEAST! THE DEER LESS BRAIN HOLDS THE BLUNDER IN PLACE?

EACH OF YOU IS VITAL TO THE LAY OF THE LAND AS YOU WELL KNOW

SCOTT! USE THE ULTRA MAGNETIC SPLICER RAILS BY 3.2 DEGREES SO THAT THE TWO CYLINDERS MAY BE JOINED!

SCOTT! USE THE ULTRA MAGNETIC SPLICER RAILS BY 3.2 DEGREES SO THAT THE TWO CYLINDERS MAY BE JOINED!



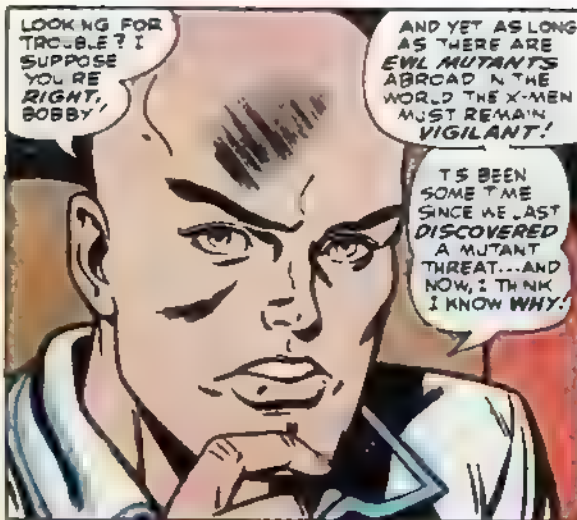
AND PRECISELY THIRTY SECONDS LATER...

THE DEVICE IS ASSEMBLED, PROFESSOR. AND LIFTED INTO PLACE BY THOSE SUPER-TENSILE CABLES! BUT, YOU STILL HAVEN'T TOLD US ITS FUNCTION!

IT'S A MULTI-FREQUENCY BOOSTER... THE LATEST ADJUST TO CEREBRO!

AS I SEE THEN IT'S DESIGNED TO INCREASE CEREBRO'S POWER SO THAT THE NEW MUTANT MENACE CAN BE PIN-POINTED!

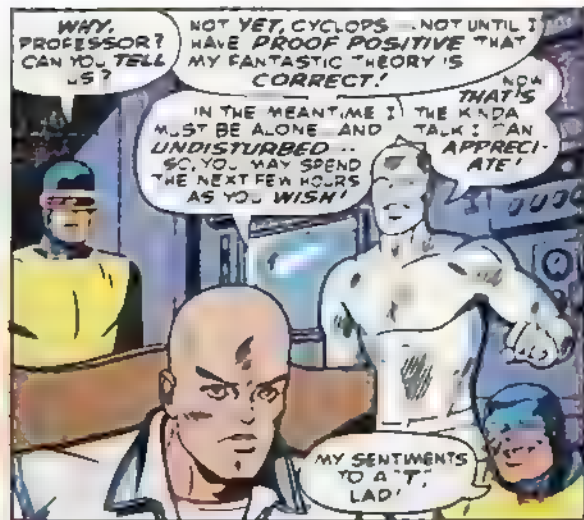
BOY TALK ABOUT LOOKIN' FOR TROUBLE!



LOOKING FOR TROUBLE? I SUPPOSE YOU'RE RIGHT, BOBBY!

AND YET AS LONG AS THERE ARE EVIL MUTANTS ABROAD IN THE WORLD THE X-MEN MUST REMAIN VIGILANT!

IT'S BEEN SOME TIME SINCE WE LAST DISCOVERED A MUTANT THREAT...AND NOW, I THINK I KNOW WHY!



WHY, PROFESSOR? CAN YOU TELL US?

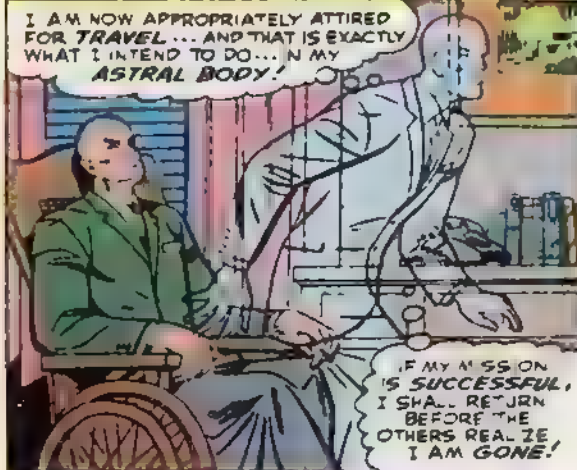
NOT YET, CYCLOPS...NOT UNTIL I HAVE PROOF POSITIVE THAT MY FANTASTIC THEORY IS CORRECT!

IN THE MEANTIME I MUST BE ALONE AND UNDISTURBED...SO YOU MAY SPEND THE NEXT FEW HOURS AS YOU WISH!

NOW THAT'S THE KINDA TALK I CAN APPRECIATE!

MY SENTIMENTS TO A T, LAD!

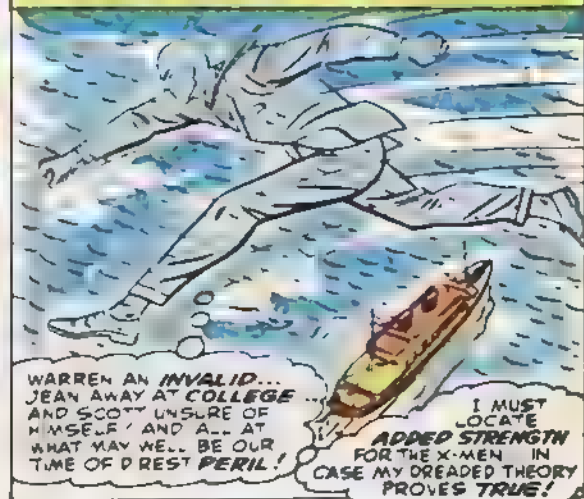
THEN AS SCOTT GOES TO TEND TO THE WOUNDED ANGEL...AND HANK AND BOBBY DEPART FOR THE HEART OF THE CITY CHARLES XAVIER SEEKS THE SECLUSION OF HIS OWN ROOM, AND SOON



I AM NOW APPROPRIATELY ATTIRE FOR TRAVEL...AND THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT I INTEND TO DO...IN MY ASTRAL BODY!

IF MY MISSION IS SUCCESSFUL, I SHALL RETURN BEFORE THE OTHERS REALIZE I AM GONE!

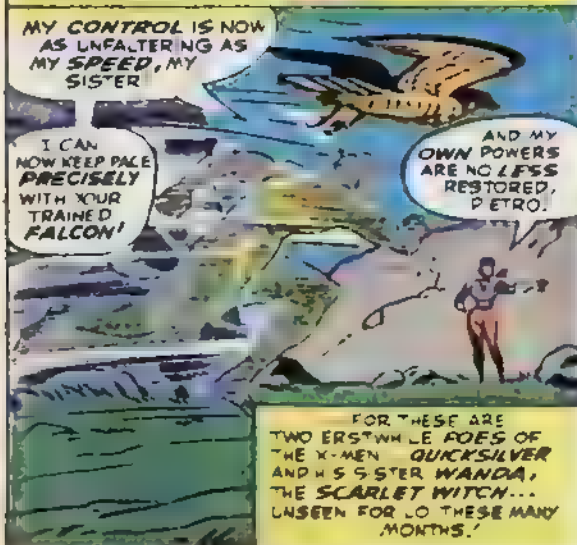
THE NEXT INSTANT WITH THE MEASURELESS SPEED OF THOUGHT "SELF" THE ETHEREAL FORM OF PROFESSOR X SCARS ACROSS THE MIGHTY ATLANTIC...



WARREN AN INVALID...JEAN AWAY AT COLLEGE AND SCOTT UNSURE OF HIMSELF AND ALL AT WHAT MAY WELL BE OUR TIME OF GREATEST PERIL!

I MUST LOCATE ADDED STRENGTH FOR THE X-MEN IN CASE MY DREADED THEORY PROVES TRUE!

AT THAT MOMENT, IN A SMALL VALLEY SOMEWHERE IN CENTRAL EUROPE, WE FIND THE PAIR WHO ARE THE SPECIFIC OBJECT OF THE PROFESSOR'S QUEST.



MY CONTROL IS NOW AS UNFASTERING AS MY SPEED, MY SISTER

I CAN NOW KEEP PACE PRECISELY WITH YOUR TRAINED FALCON!

AND MY OWN POWERS ARE NO LESS RESTORED, PETRO!

FOR THESE ARE TWO OF THE FIRST FOES OF THE X-MEN. QUICKSILVER AND HIS SISTER WANDA, THE SCARLET WITCH...UNSEEN FOR SO MANY MONTHS!



GOOD! THEN BEFORE LONG WE MAY RETURN TO BUT WHAT'S WRONG, WANDA?

I...I DO NOT KNOW, MY BROTHER. IT'S AS IF I SENSE A PRESENCE...SOME UNSPEAKING VOICE WITHIN MY VERY MIND!

NOW, I MYSELF FEEL IT! WHAT CAN IT BE?

DO NOT BE ALARMED WANDA AND PETRO! IT'S I, PROFESSOR XAVIER, LEADER OF THE X-MEN!

THE X-MEN? WELL DO I REMEMBER OUR EPIC BATTLES WITH THEM... WHEN WE WERE UNWILLING TOOLS OF MAGNETO AND HIS VILE BROTHERHOOD!*

*AS SEEN IN X-MEN #4... AND ABOUT A ZILLION ISSUES THEREAFTER! --SCHOLARLY STAN

WANDA SPEAKS FOR US BOTH! ONCE, OUR FONDEST DESIRE WOULD HAVE BEEN TO BECOME X-MEN! BUT NOW, WE ARE FULL-FLEDGED AVENGERS...

AND IT IS EVER AS AVENGERS THAT WE SHALL STAND... OR FALL!

WELL SPOKEN PIETRO! I WISH YOU BOTH GOOD FORTUNE AND SHALL TROUBLE YOU NO FURTHER!

I WONDER... DID WE MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICE?

WAST ME I COME TO NUTE YOU TO FORGET OLD QUARRELS... AND TO JOIN OUR GROUP AGAINST A COMMON THREAT

JOIN YOU? BUT, THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...

BUT, THAT IS A QUESTION FOR ANOTHER TIME... ANOTHER STORY! JUST NOW, OUR SCENE SHIFTS ABRUPTLY TO MIDTOWN NEW YORK CITY, AS...

THE X-MEN? MAY I OFFER YOU A SUMPTUOUS FRANKFURTER, VERA... IN TOKEN OF GRATITUDE FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS OF MY ABRUPT DEPARTURE FROM OUR LAST DATE?

YOU MAY... ONLY, WHO SAID YOU'RE FORGIVEN YET?

HOW ABOUT YOU, ZELDA? I'LL EVEN THROW IN A CHERRY SODA, JUST TO SNOW YOU!

YOU'RE ON, SPORT!

TWO DOGS AND A DOUBLE HELPING OF SUBS! THAT'LL BE A DOLLAR, EVEN, CHARLIE!

UH, ZEL... I'M NOT SURE JUST HOW TO BREAK THIS, BUT I SEEM TO HAVE SPRUNG A HOLE IN MY POCKET, AND...

SAY NO MORE, DIAMOND JIM! YOU'RE LUCKY YOU'RE GOING WITH A WORKING GAL!

WHEN I GO OUT WITH YOU, I ALWAYS BRING ALONG MY BILLFOLD!

MEANWHILE THE USUALLY LOQUACIOUS HANK'S HAVING HIS OWN PROBLEMS...

NOW, ABOUT THOSE WALK-OUTS, MR. MCCOY...

YOU MUST ENDEAVOR TO UNDERSTAND, BEAUTEOUS ONE! THE FACTORS WHICH CONTROL MY LIFE ARE MANY AND VARIED!

CIRCUMSTANCES! EVENTS! THE TUG AND SWAY OF HISTORY! ER, UH...

I SOMEHOW SENSE YOU ARE UNIMPRESSED BY MY VERBAL VIRTUOSITY!

TURN SUDDENLY... EXIT SWEET TALK AND RECRIMINATIONS ENTER ACTION!

CLAAANG!

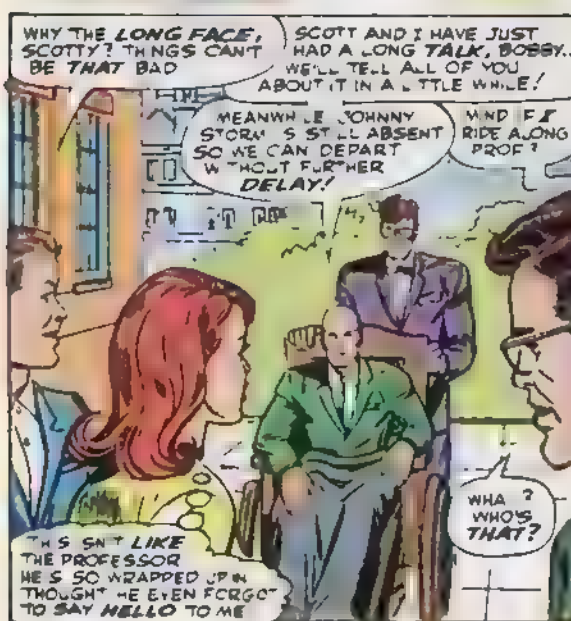
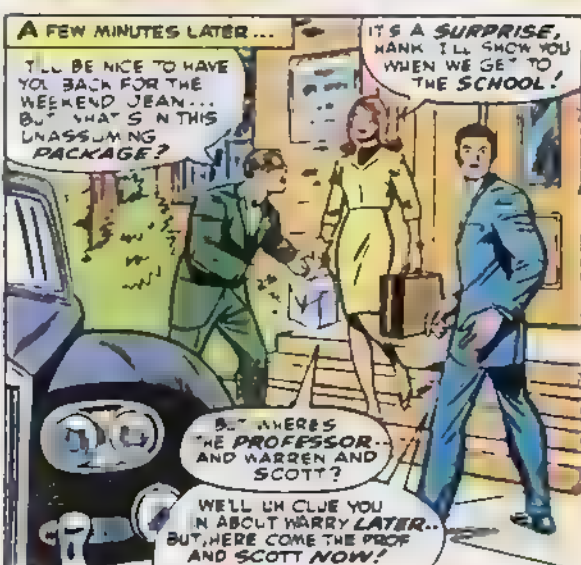
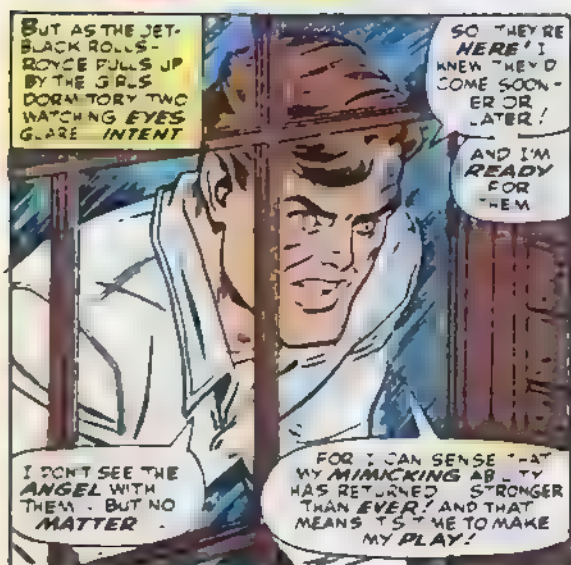
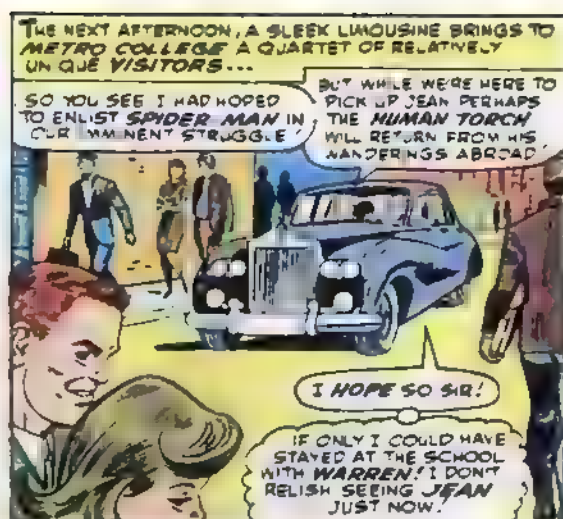
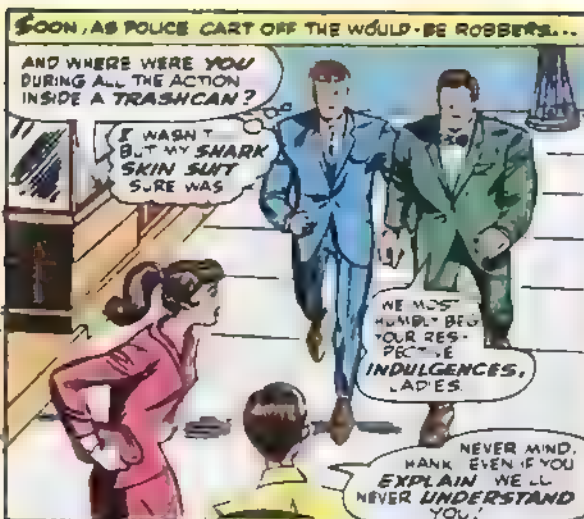
LISTEN! THERE GOES AN ALARM BELL!

AND THOSE TWO MEN, RUNNING OUT OF THAT BANK! IT MUST BE A ROBBERY!

A TRULY ABSTUTE DEDUCTION, FEMALE...

IT'S TIME FOR THE X-MEN TO LEND A HAND... BUT, HOW?

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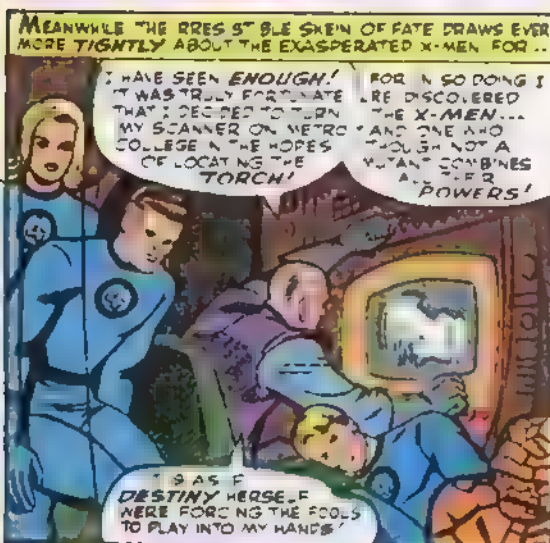
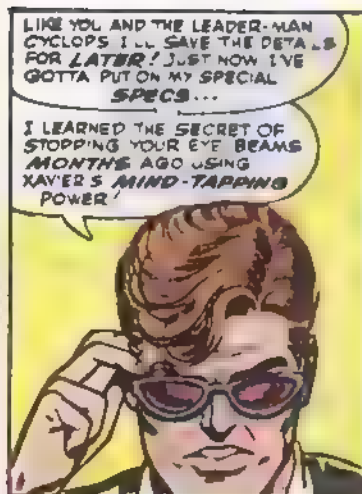
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SO THIS IS YOUR FELICITOUS SURPRISE, JEAN... YOU'VE REDESIGNED OUR COSTUMES!

I'M KINDA SORRY MY OWN RED BELT GETS ICED OVER!

I HOPED YOU'D LIKE THEM!

I WAS GETTING TIRED OF ALL THAT YELLOW IN THE OLD ONES...

I MUST ADMIT, THE RESULT IS A GREAT FLYING INCREASE IN FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT!

THE ONLY THING IS, HOME ECONOMICS ISN'T EXACTLY MY STRONG POINT!

HEADS UP, EVERYONE... I HEAR THE PROFESSOR COMING!

THE NEXT SECOND, THE DOOR OPENS, REVEALING...

I HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO MAKE! CYCLOPS HAS ASKED ME TO BE RELIEVED OF HIS COMMAND OF THE X-MEN!

XAVIER TOLD ME OF AN IMPENDING MUTANT MENACE... AND HE KNOWS THAT THEY MAY NEED MY COMPOSITE POWERS!

THEREFORE FOR THE PRESENT HE'LL BE SUCCEEDED BY... CAL RANKIN!

PARDON ME, SIR... BUT YOU MUST BE JOKING!

NO BOBBY... THE M.M.C.'S NOW DEPUTY LEADER OF THE X-MEN!

AND HE KNOWS THAT I'D NEVER TAKE ORDERS FROM ANYBODY!

BUT UNKNOWN EVEN TO THE MILDLY MALEVOLENT MIMIC, HE IS ABOUT TO RECEIVE ORDERS WHICH EVEN HE CAN NOT RESIST...

I HAVE SEEN ENOUGH! IN ALLOWING THE MIMIC TO GAIN ALL THE ABILITIES THE X-MEN HAVE PLAYED INTO MY HANDS!

SOON, THEY SHALL FIND THAT THE PUPPET MASTER IS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN ANY MUTANT!

FOR THIS DOLL SHALL GIVE ME COMPLETE DOMINATION OF THE MIMIC... NOW!

AND, EVEN AS THE SINISTER SCULPTOR SPEAKS...

FIRST CAL, I THINK IT WOULD BE WISE IF YOU SPENT SOME TIME PRACTISING WITH...

UNNN... I... DON'T KNOW! FEEL... STRANGE...

MIMIC... WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S WRONG?

SUDDENLY I COULD SENSE SOME AWESOME FORCE TAKING CONTROL OF M.M... THE SAME FORCE WHICH ATTACKED ME YESTERDAY!

THEN... OKAY, SKINHEAD... SO YOU WANT ME TO PRACTICE WITH YOUR KIDDIE QUARTET, HUH?

I'LL PRACTICE, ALRIGHT... WHILE I MOP UP THE FLOOR WITH EM!

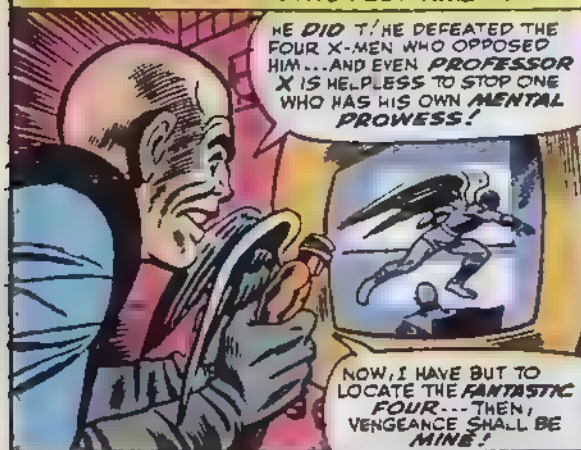
AND, WHEN I'M THROUGH, YOU'LL KNOW THAT NOBODY BUT NOBODY, CAN ORDER AROUND... THE MIMIC!

HE'S CHANGED... BECOME EVEN MORE AGGRESSIVE THAN BEFORE!

THE X-MEN MUST STOP H.M... BUT CAN THEY?

HOLD IT, MARIE... THIS IS WHERE WE AND YOU'VE COME IN! (WE'LL PAUSE BRIEFLY WHILE YOU FRANTIC FORGETFUL ONES RE-READ THE FIRST FOUR PAGES OF OUR AMORPHOUS EPIC... BUT DON'T TAKE TOO LONG, HEAR?)

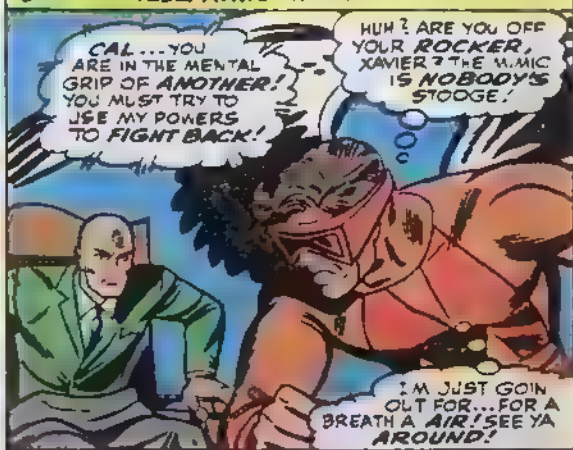
OKAY, FAITHFUL ONE... NOW THAT YOU UNDERSTAND JUST WHY THE UNAFFABLE MR. RANKIN HAS BEEN TILTING WITH OUR MERRY MUTANTS, IT'S PLOT TIME AGAIN...



HE DID IT! HE DEFEATED THE FOUR X-MEN WHO OPPOSED HIM... AND EVEN PROFESSOR X IS HELPLESS TO STOP ONE WHO HAS HIS OWN MENTAL PROWESS!

NOW, I HAVE BUT TO LOCATE THE FANTASTIC FOUR... THEN, VENGEANCE SHALL BE MINE!

BUT AS THE MIMIC--OBEYING A SILENT COMMAND FROM HIS UNSEEN MASTER--TURNS TO DEPART FROM THE SCHOOL, A TELEPATHIC THOUGHT RINGS OUT...



CAL... YOU ARE IN THE MENTAL GRIP OF ANOTHER! YOU MUST TRY TO USE MY POWERS TO FIGHT BACK!

HUH? ARE YOU OFF YOUR ROCKER, XAVIER? THE MIMIC IS NOBODY'S STODGE!

I'M JUST GOIN' OUT FOR... FOR A BREATHER AROUND!

SOON, AS THE REVIVING X-MEN SEEK AN EXPLANATION FOR THEIR UNACUSTOMED FAILURE...

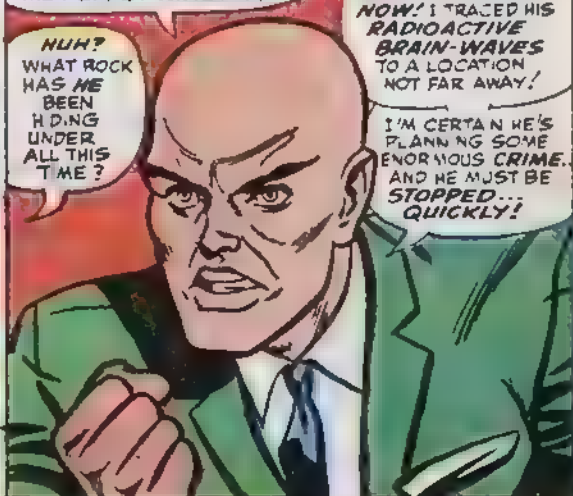


CYCLOPS WAS CORRECT, EARLIER... YOU WERE SUBCONSCIOUSLY HOLDING BACK... AT MY ORDER!

IT WAS NECESSARY THAT YOU SEEM TO BE DEFEATED... SO THAT HE WHO MENTALLY CONTROLS THE MIMIC WOULD CEASE MONITORING OUR EVERY ACTION... AND THEREFORE BE CAUGHT OFF GUARD!

THEN... YOU KNOW WHO WAS BEHIND RANKIN'S ATTACK?

YES SCOTT! CALVIN IS UNDER THE PSYCHIC SWAY OF... THE PUPPET MASTER!

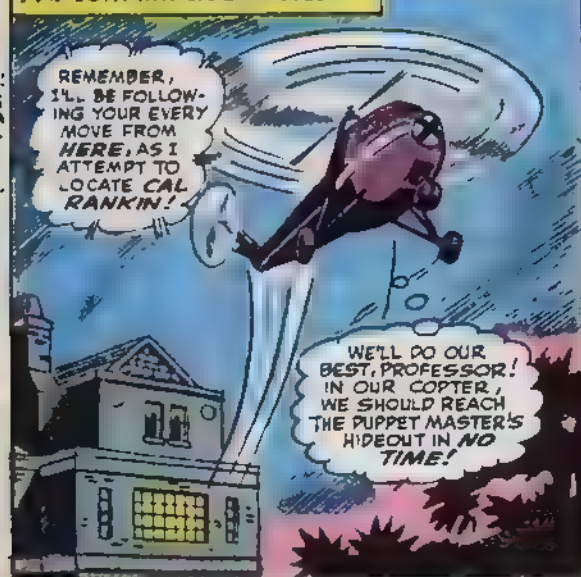


HUH? WHAT ROCK HAS HE BEEN HIDING UNDER ALL THIS TIME?

I DON'T KNOW, BOBBY. BUT I DO KNOW WHERE HE IS NOW! I TRACED HIS RADIOACTIVE BRAIN-WAVES TO A LOCATION NOT FAR AWAY!

I'M CERTAIN HE'S PLANNING SOME ENORMOUS CRIME. AND HE MUST BE STOPPED... QUICKLY!

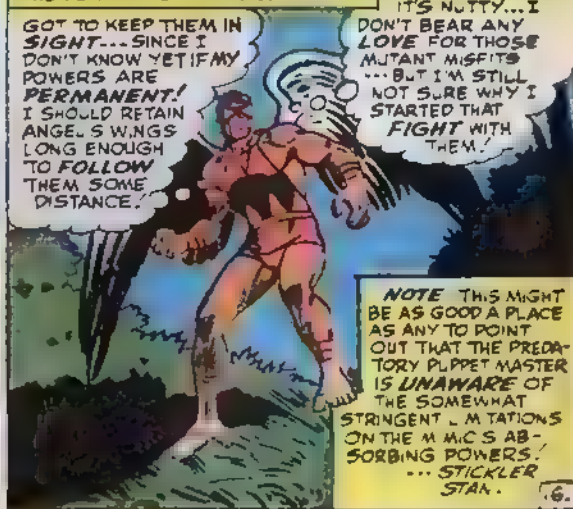
AND SO, WITHIN BARE MINUTES...



REMEMBER, I'LL BE FOLLOWING YOUR EVERY MOVE FROM HERE, AS I ATTEMPT TO LOCATE CAL RANKIN!

WE'LL DO OUR BEST, PROFESSOR! IN OUR COPTER, WE SHOULD REACH THE PUPPET MASTER'S HIDEOUT IN NO TIME!

HOWEVER, UNKNOWN EVEN TO THE POTENT BRAIN OF CHARLES XAVIER, THE MIGHTY BUT MOORLESS MIMIC HAS SET UP A MENTAL SCREEN TO PREVENT HIS DETECTION... AND, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, OBSERVES THE DEPARTURE OF THE X-MEN...



GOT TO KEEP THEM IN SIGHT... SINCE I DON'T KNOW YET IF MY POWERS ARE PERMANENT! I SHOULD RETAIN ANGEL'S WINGS LONG ENOUGH TO FOLLOW THEM SOME DISTANCE.

IT'S NUTTY... I DON'T BEAR ANY LOVE FOR THOSE MUTANT MISFITS... BUT I'M STILL NOT SURE WHY I STARTED THAT FIGHT WITH THEM!

NOTE THIS MIGHT BE AS GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO POINT OUT THAT THE PREDATORY PUPPET MASTER IS UNAWARE OF THE SOMEWHAT STRINGENT LIMITATIONS ON THE MIMIC'S ABSORBING POWERS! ...STICKLER STAN.

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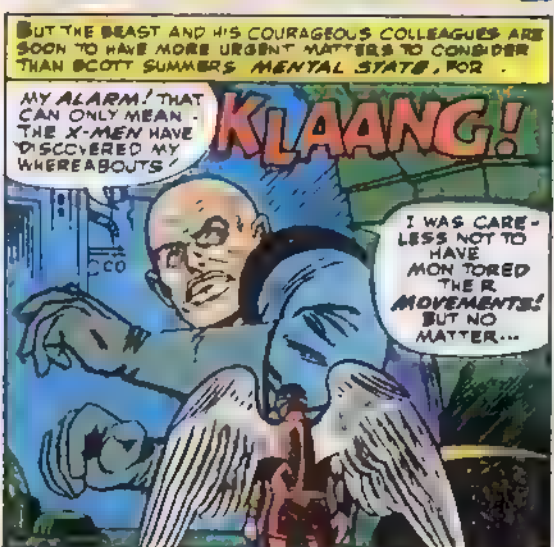
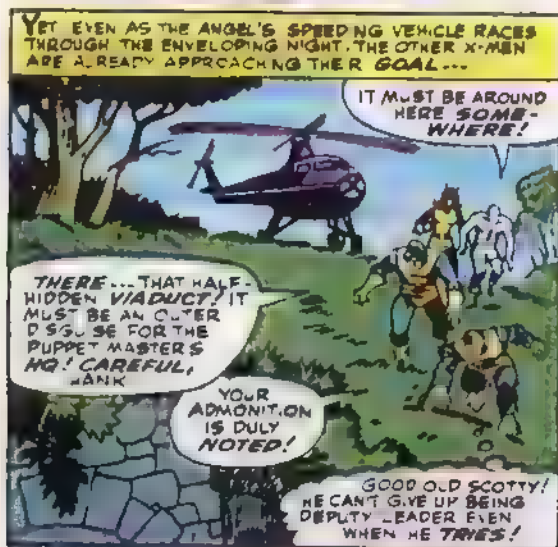
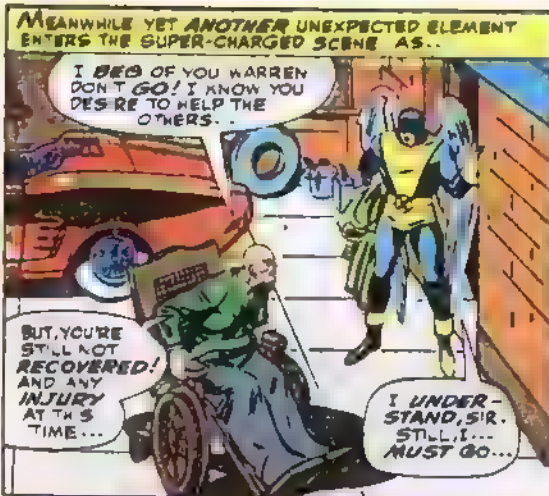
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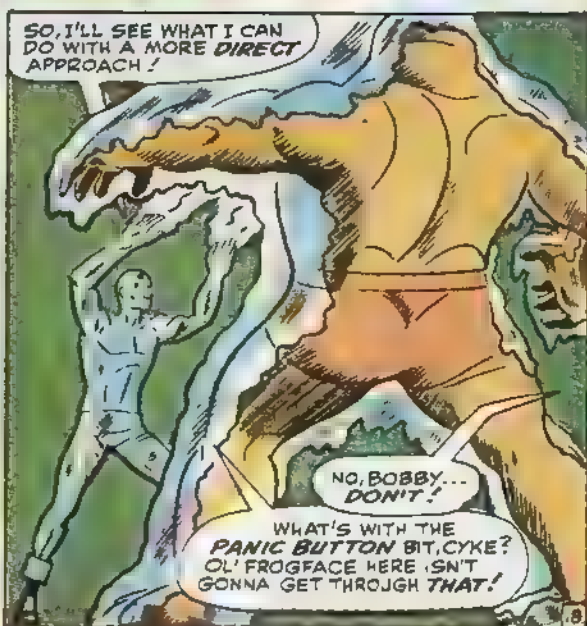
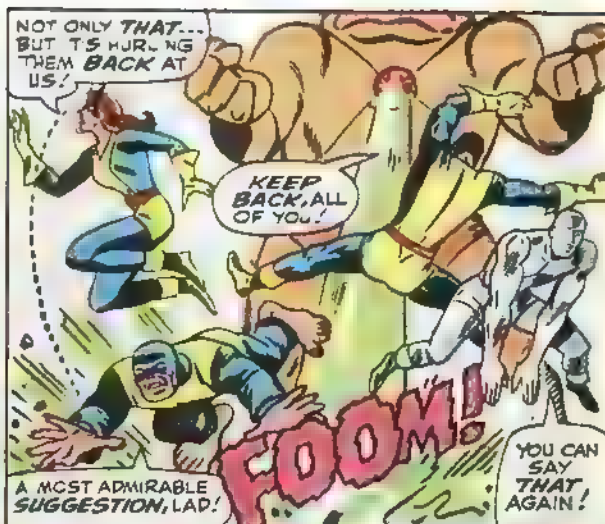
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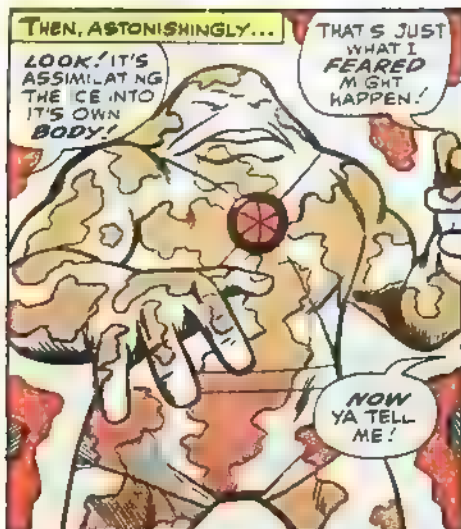
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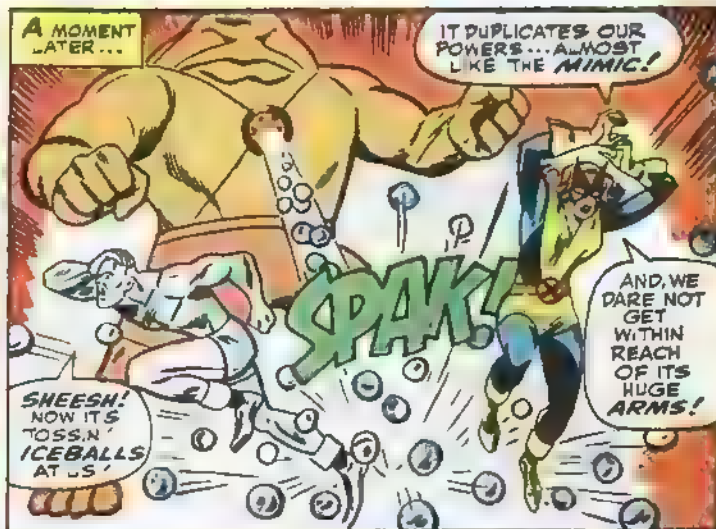


THEN, ASTONISHINGLY...

LOOK! IT'S ASSIMILATING THE ICE INTO ITS OWN BODY!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I FEARED MIGHT HAPPEN!

NOW YA TELL ME!



A MOMENT LATER...

IT DUPLICATES OUR POWERS... ALMOST LIKE THE MIMIC!

SNEESH! NOW IT'S TOSSIN' ICEBALLS AT US!

AND, WE DARE NOT GET WITHIN REACH OF ITS HUGE ARMS!



MAYBE NOT... BUT THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A CAT... OR TOPPLE AN ANDROID!

LUCKILY, THERE WAS A CAVE BENEATH THE FLOOR... INTO WHICH OUR PLAYMATE COULD FALL!

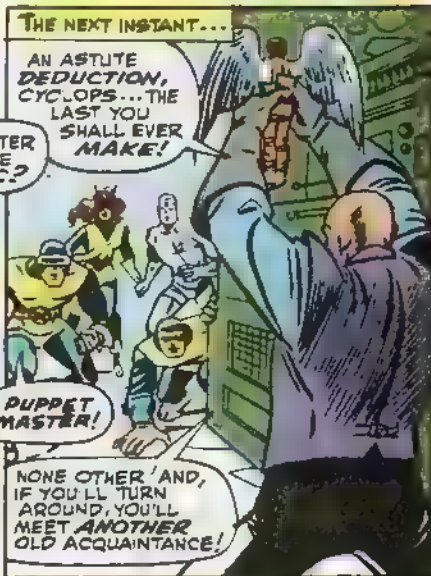
AH... THAT SHOULD DISPOSE OF OUR FLAT-FOOTED FRIEND!



AND, AS THE UNSPEAKING DEFENDER PLUNGES FROM SIGHT...

IF HE HAS THAT THING, WHY DOES PUPPET MASTER NEED THE MIMIC?

MY GUESS IS, THE ANDROID IS TOO UNMANEUVERABLE...



THE NEXT INSTANT...

AN ASTUTE DEDUCTION, CYCLOPS... THE LAST YOU SHALL EVER MAKE!

PUPPET MASTER!

NONE OTHER! AND, IF YOU'LL TURN AROUND, YOU'LL MEET ANOTHER OLD ACQUAINTANCE!



I LET YOU OFF EASY A WHILE AGO... BUT NOW, I'M GONNA FINISH THE JOB I STARTED!

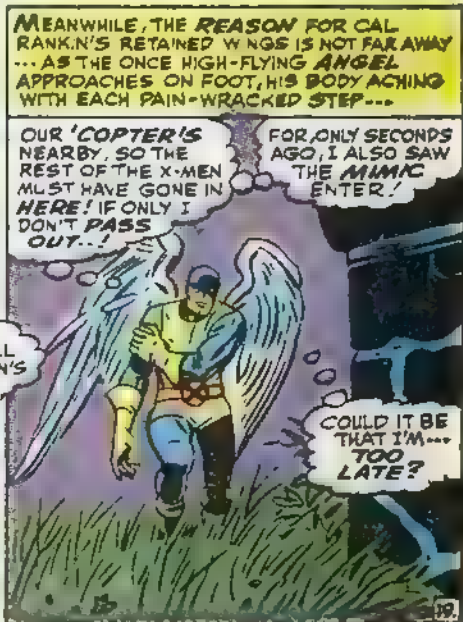
CAL... WAIT!

SAVE YOUR BREATH, MARVEL GIRL! HE'S UNDER THE PUPPET MASTER'S COMPLETE CONTROL!

I CAN PROTECT MYSELF FROM HIS OPTIC BEAMS... BUT WHAT OF THE OTHERS?

AND, HOW CAN HE STILL HAVE WARREN'S WINGS?

I HAVE WASTED ENOUGH TIME ON THESE FOOLS! MIMIC... DESTROY THEM!

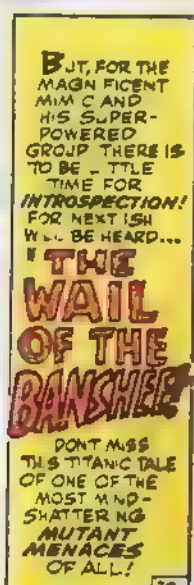
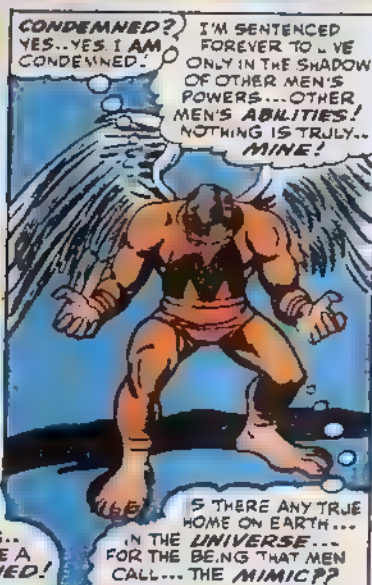
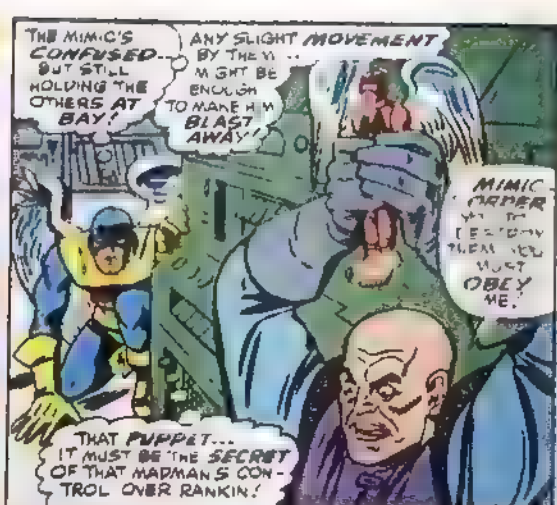
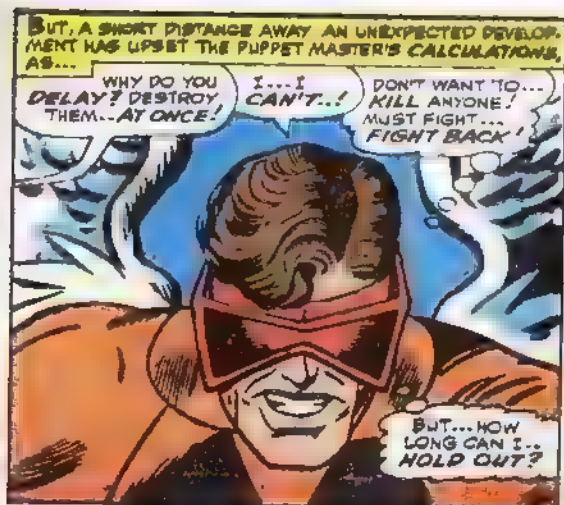


MEANWHILE, THE REASON FOR CAL RANKIN'S RETAINED WINGS IS NOT FAR AWAY... AS THE ONCE HIGH-FLYING ANGEL APPROACHES ON FOOT, HIS BODY ACHING WITH EACH PAIN-WRACKED STEP...

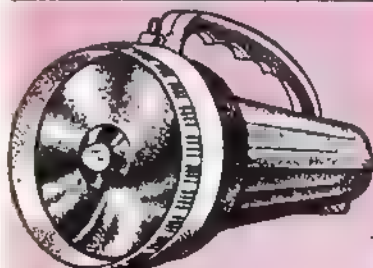
OUR 'COPTER'S NEARBY, SO THE REST OF THE X-MEN MUST HAVE GONE IN HERE! IF ONLY I DON'T PASS OUT...

FOR ONLY SECONDS AGO, I ALSO SAW THE MIMIC ENTER!

COULD IT BE THAT I'M... TOO LATE?



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ITEM! It's a funny feeling writing these Bullpen pages — here's why. Since Stan is typing these imperishable words on July 14th — but by the time they're sent to the printer and finally reach YOU, it'll be some time in October! In other words, there's always an interval of about three months from the time we write something till the time you read it! Even though you've probably seen our Marvel SuperHeroes TV show by now — at the time we're writing this, it won't be on the air for another two months! It's kinda spooky, isn't it? Any way that's the reason WE can't comment about our show yet, even though YOU can! It'll be a couple of months before WE get to see it! See how much luckier YOU are! Who SAYS this isn't the Marvel Age of Compounded Confusion?

ITEM We just received a letter from a ravin' reader who asks a question that many of you have tossed at us over the past few years — and so, we figure we might as well answer it here and now! Here, the liltin' letter:

Dear Bullpen Gang,

I am curious to know how the letters for your letters columns are selected. Does Stan run all the letters thru one of Reed Richards' all-purpose computers — or does Irving For Bush just go Eeny Meeny Miney Moe? Neri Nachas.

631 E 96th Street
Bklyn, N.Y. 11236

Now for the benefit of a widely waiting word — your ameliorable answer. Actually Fabulous Flo, our gregarious gal Friday opens all the mail first and scans it quickly — albeit lovingly! Then all the letters of more than passing interest, which includes about 99% of 'em, are given to Smiley. Poor Stan the Man who has turned into a case of human walking eyestrain, gobbles 'em up and puts a check atop those he thinks would be interesting enough for our various letters pages. He then returns 'em to Flo who bravely types them up for the printer after first passing them around to the rest of the Bullpen. You might be interested in knowing that we read any where from 200 to 500 a day, in order to select a half dozen or so for the letters pages! Now then, if there's anything ELSE you wanna know about the process, don't write us a letter! Have pity, pussycats!

ITEM Here's some more late info about the merry Marvel goings-on at various campuses around this cavortin' country of ours. Just recently the STANFORD U MMMSers, led by Jumpin' Jack Marchese, stumped your friendly neighborhood Spider Man into the office of Campus King, while collecting hundreds of dollars for charity! Readers of the TRINITY COLLEGE magazine, Ivy are undoubtedly being awed by rapturous reprints of Marvel art facts in the Sept ish! RENSELEAR POLYTECH was the scene of a mirthful Marvel Beaux Arts Ball last April. The festivities featured a home-made 9-foot pic of mighty Thor curts and all, plus 30x40-inch posters of actual Marvel panels! Tom Salazar and Corky Reed of COLORADO STATE gave the prof a Spidey

T-shirt which he dramatically donned for class one day! No he's to Doc Fry — long may he propagate the faith! A tribute to Marvel was broadcast by Ken Friedman at SHIMM COLLEGE recently — while WLSU FM at WESLEYAN U. is actually planning a Marvel dramatization series for the coming semester for which we proudly thank station manager Mark Estren. Oh, by the way, the Renaissance Polytech Beaux Arts Ball featured Mike Alderston dressed as Spidey, Tony Pargano as the Black Panther, John Matthews, Barb Westcott, Debbie Priest and Mike Hicks as the FF, and our cavortin' correspondent Pete Crissey as an Agent of Shield. His wife Sharon was his captive natch! In between times, we hope the Marvel Mad men mentioned above managed to latch onto a little stud! on as well!

ITEM Let's meet a few of our newest Bullpen buddies. You'll notice the name JIM STERANFO listed as illustrator of the current Agent of Shield series in STRANGE TALES. Jim is a titanicly talented new comer with a really exciting background. Believe it or not, he was formerly one of our most successful stage magicians — being billed as the greatest liberationist (escape artist) since Houdini! And then there's Mischievous MORRIS KURAMOTO, our latest addition to Jolly Sol's fat d'working product on staff! Besides being a crackerjack letterer, Morris is one of America's top watercolor artists. And how about Marvel's newest editorial hep mate — RON WHYLL! Ron is merely the recipient of a fellowship to the Yae Drama School — and has the greatest sense of humor since J. Jonah Jameson. So welcome aboard group — and thanks for adding a little more glamor to Marvel-dom!

ITEM. It looks as though EVERYONE is latching on to Marvel these days! In the June 56 ish of THE NEW GUARD published by The Young Americans for Freedom, there was an adroit appraisal of the Marvel Mystique which really set us back on our heels! Aside to dynamic Dave Nolan — your no prize is on the way!

ITEM Whoops! We almost forgot to list the newest disc jockeys on our ever growing roster! Let's hear it gang for: Rick Stevens, WONE, Dayton Ohio — Don Kennedy, KISN, Portland Ore — King Zbornik, WRIT, Milwaukee, Wisc — Rega Cordic, KNX, Los Angeles, Calif — and Rick Snyder, WTRY, Troy, N.Y. — Heroes all! Incidentally, how about us giving a stannless steel no prize to the deejay who's the fastest talker? Many fans have told us that Merry Marcher Gary Stevens, WMCA, New York, should win the prize hands down, but we'd like to hear what the rest of Marvel-dom thinks. So let us know who YOUR nominee is for the title "The Fastest Gums in Marvel-land"! We'll announce the winner sooner or later somewhere or other in our usual methodical manner! See you again next ish — same time — same bulletin page! Till then, remember — be good to each other! After all, isn't there a little bit of the super hero in all of us?

THE MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST

A Line Up Of Some Of The Marvelous Mags On Sale Right Now!

FANTASTIC FOUR #58: It had to happen! Mankind is at the mercy of Doctor Doom! The FF are defeated at last! And — that's only part of it!

SPIDER-MAN #44: He's really back! None other than the uncanny Lizard — one of Spidey's most exciting foes — far more menacing than ever!

AVENGERS #35: Just like we promised you — you'll see the big change in Goliath at last! — not to mention the final fate of the Living Laser!

DAREDEVIL #23: Another thrilling change of scene for DD, as he battles the Gladiator to a finish in the most off beat yarn of the season!

THOR #135: Sensational! You'll gape at the origin of the High Evolutionary! And, you'll flip at the way Goldlocks battles the future Man Beast!

STRANGE TALES #152: Shield finally shows its block busting power — while Dr. Strange enters a dimension so mysterious that we can't even describe it here!

SUSPENSE #85: Iron Man faces the Mandarin once more — but things are different this time! As for Captain America — he wages one of his greatest fights — against Batroc!

ASTONISH #87: You've never seen anything like the Sub-Mariners showdown with Krang — nor the Hulk's epic struggle against the indestructible Hulk Killer!

SGT FURY #37: The hectic Howlers are up to their battle helmets — and as they take on Nazis and desert tribesmen alike on the North African front! Wah hoo!

MARVEL COLLECTORS' ITEM CLASSICS #6: The fabulous Fantastic Four! The invincible Iron Man! The dynamic Dr. Strange! The incredible Hulk! Another block bustin' bargain from your big hearted bullpen!

FANTASY MASTERPIECES: Another terrific trio of titanic tales with everybody's Gold on Age favorite, Captain America — plus three fantasy classics!

MARVEL TALES #6: Spidey — Thor — the Human Torch — and the high flyin', heavenly Wasp! All in one mag — the biggest bargain since the Louisiana Purchase!



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Cranford, N.J.
Mara Fleischer
Bloom, N.Y.

Robert Banks Jr.
East Mich.
R. L. King
San Francisco, Cal.
Michael Amann
Nauvoo, Ill.
Robert Cravanti
New York, N.Y.

Charles Hicks
Baltimore, Md.
James A. Hagen
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Jim Hancock
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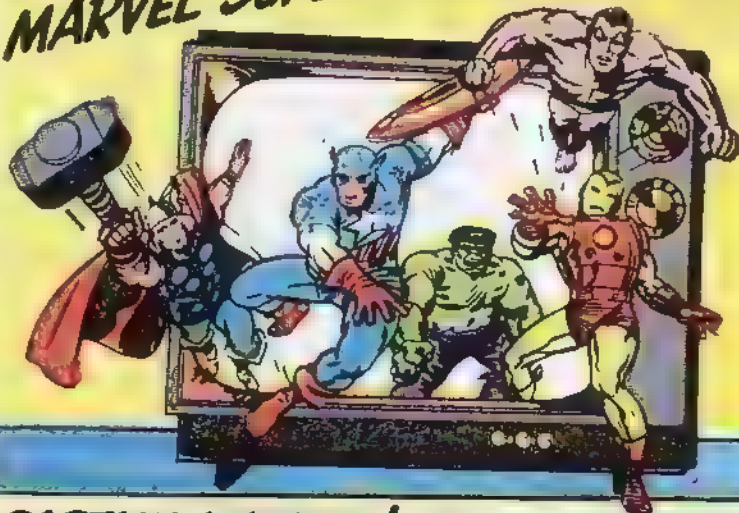
Care Broadstreet
Mooreville, Md.
Steve Haskins
La Porte, Ind.
Walter F. Vroman
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Jody Weiss
Bloomington, Ind.

David Laird
Ponchartraine, La.
Ronnie Laird
Ponchartraine, La.
Keith Jarek
Springfield, Ill.
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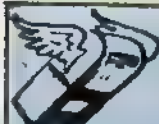
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Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner:

I've never written to a magazine before, and I'm not the type of guy who goes around looking for mistakes. But there were a few errors in X-MEN #23 that I just had to point out to you. First, on page three, you show a general in his dress blues—but a general has a white design on the brim of his hat and the part just above this is missing on the general in your magazine. Also, right in back of him is a captain with (apparently) two gold bars. There are only two ranks that have gold insignia; they are second lieutenant and major. All others wear silver insignia. The final mistake is that you have the Senate voting the appropriation for the ransom. But any bill involving money has to originate in the House of Representatives and *all* bills have to pass both houses! Other than these minor things, though, I liked your magazine. I missed the previous issue, but I think I know what happened. One final question: How did the X-Men get to be the X-Men? You've never had a real origin story for them.
AFC James E. Guernsey AF16876931
810 Elm Street, Holly, Mich.

Ahh, but we will, Jimmy—we will! And if we give away all the info now, we may miss out on your 12¢ later! Anyway, the design you refer to on a general's cap brim is commonly called "scrambled eggs", and we'll slap Woeful Werner's wrist with a wet noodle for forgetting that fateful fact! As for the gold color on the captain's bars, we must plead innocent, flyboy, as it was merely a printer's oversight! If anyone knows the correct color of those things, we do! (We've sure saluted enough of 'em in our time!) Finally, here's Rascally Roy's answer to your beef about the appropriations vote: "Nowhere in the story does it even remotely hint that the Senate is involved—it mentions only Congress and/or a committee (which could be of either house). The man who gives the money to Angel is addressed as 'Congressman'—i.e., a member of the House of Representatives. I wasn't a social science and history major for nothing! — It only *seems* that way sometimes!" And, with that, Jimmy boy, our dizzy defense rests!

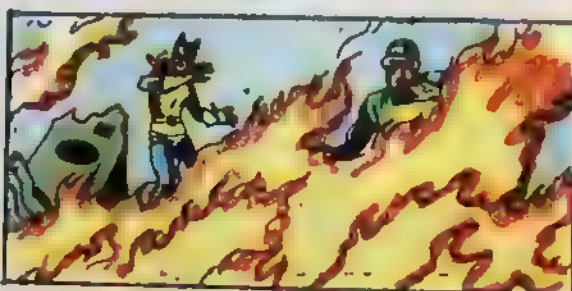
Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner:

I've been biding my time before commenting on fandom's Golden Boy, Roy Thomas, and his handling of THE X-MEN. Roy is one of those fortunate few who've successfully made the long, tedious climb from furiously banging out letters of comment to publishing a fanzine to becoming a pro; his admirable success is impressive and, to those fans who want to follow in his footsteps, inspiring. This is even more true because Thomas is a terrifically good comics writer. He has fantastic potential, which he demonstrated with the flair of an expert in "The Plague of the Locust" in X-MEN #24. It was his best X-Men yarn to date, and even managed to hold its own compared to his boss' efforts in issues previous. The only fault with the Locust was his sudden switchover from embittered lunatic to crusading invalid, all in two panels... and small panels, at that. Such stuff isn't shall we say, an action mag's meat; it belongs to Millie and Patsy Walker. Perhaps the best thing Roy has done is to revive the dormant love interest twist Cyclops and Marvel Girl. Any

poor, miserable slob who's howled himself tearless over some gorgeous chick can identify with the suffering Cyke. Werner Roth and Dick Ayers revealed with alacrity (I hope that means what I think it means) just why Summers feels the way he does. Never have any of Marvel's heroines approached the gentle beauty of Jean in panel 4 of page 2. I like Jean, I was getting sort of tired of looking at the Beast. Maybe I enjoyed X-MEN #24 because I rather resemble Scott Summers. Not that I'm ape over a doll like Jean Grey, but I *do* wear crotchets. Not to protect the common people from a withering red ray, though—unfortunately, I'm just nearsighted.

Guy H. Lillian III 718 Spring Drive
Walnut Creek, Calif. 94598

Shucks, Guy! And for a while there, we thought Scotty had a rival! However, it's probably just as well—he has enough trouble with the Angel as things stand now! We enjoyed your agonizingly accurate appraisal of Rascally Roy's efforts and heartily concur with you, tiger! Stan's been praising him to the skies for months—hoping he'll be so busy blushing that it won't occur to him to ask for a raise!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner:

Wow! X-MEN #24 was a great issue. I'm not the sort of person who raves over every single comic you put out. The plot behind the story was good, and the script itself was excellent. A great job, Roy! And I'm not forgetting Werner's artwork either. The cover was very well drawn as was the material between the covers. The Locust was a great villain, but why did he regain his sanity? The story would have been better as a continued one. The X-Men themselves are getting better every issue. The Beast is my favorite X-Man. Keep up the great stories, and as Sam McArchibald would say, "Horse sense is that faculty which keeps horses from betting on people!" So long, fellas!

Steve Frederick, Rt. #3, Box 198
Battle Creek, Mich. 49017

So long, Steverino! We're glad you liked Werner's art—we're delighted that you put the Frederick seal of approval on Roy's script—we're thrilled over your preference for our continued format—but poor Stan is hunched over his battered typewriter sobbing, "Nobody loves an editor!" Oh well, if you have to slight somebody, it might as well be Smiley! They tell us that he's gotten his share of acclaim in his day—whenever that was! Oh, by the way, give our regards to Sam McArchibald. Is he the fella who used to run that delicatessen next door?

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner:

The X-MEN is the greatest! The characters you've created in this book are so vividly real and wonderful, I don't know how to praise them enough. The depth of personality, the talent in each, the sense of justice, and the intense dedication given to each make THE X-MEN your best magazine. However, I'd like to suggest that Jeannie should show a bit more individualism! Give her a creative intelligence. Nobody seems to have come up with a female genius to rival the male geniuses in comics. Heed my plea! Even the female needs an ego boost once in a while. If Jean showed more independence, we readers wouldn't get the impression that she is at the fickle mercy of Cyke's ambiguous love. (She's a bit too young for a serious romance anyway.) Cyclops is an okay guy, but we don't know enough about him. Even though he has to be aloof (deputy leader and all that), have him show a bit more talent than just burning crevices in New York's streets. As for Warren, I like him . . . I like him . . . I LIKE HIM! Angel is really my kinda guy. Again, I don't know how you managed to create the element of appreciative quality among the four teenage mutants when they work as a team, but that's how teamwork is! Having been the only girl fencer on the University of Chicago's fencing team in 1965, I experienced the wonderful sensation of being "one of the guys" and receiving treatment as an equal.

Barbara Chung, 3124 S. Wells St.
Chicago, Ill. 60616

The only girl fencer at the University of Chicago? Golly, Babs, next time we're looking for a new superheroine, all we've gotta do is get in touch with you! (You'd probably be a smash on "What's My Line?")! Anyway, all your senses-staggering suggestions will be dealt with in typical Marvel fashion—which means we all pass the buck to poor, overworked Fabulous Flo, telling her to "make a note of this!" What happens after she makes a note of it is, of course, anybody's guess!



Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner:

Guess what I found? A miscalculation in one of your inexpressible dissertations of the tantalizing ventures of the omnipotently powered X-Men! Now back to the goof—in issue #24, page 18, panel 1, the loquacious Beast says to the virulent Locust, "... stick around for a short tete a tete . . . That means a heart to heart talk, if you're behind in your French lessons." Evidently the cognizant Beast was behind in his lessons. He should have known that "tete a tete" means head to head, not heart to heart. How about it, gang—do I merit a French no-prize?

Joe Negvesi, Jr., 171 Hunning Ridge Rd.
Stamford, Conn. 06903

We'll let you know, Joey, as soon as we receive an answer to the rush cable we sent to De Gaulle asking for a ruling on this most vital matter! Actually, though, while tête-à-tête (and it should be hyphenated, lad!) does literally mean head to head, it applies to a conversation with only two persons present

—therefore, a confidential, rather personal conversation—ergo: a heart-to-heart talk! (But, we suspect you'll soon be receiving your no-prize anyway, as will AFC Jim Guernsey whose letter appears elsewhere in this section!)



Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner:

The X-Men, by far, are one of the best teams in comics history. They get better and better with each issue. But I disagree that Marvel Girl should go to college, especially if she's going to waltz around with that creep Ted Roberts. I think that if she's ever going to fall in love with anyone, it should be Scott. I think that the Professor's metal leg braces are sensational. The Locust was a unique foe, but he was defeated too easily. Ypurs till the Beast gets an ingrown toenail!

Michael Polo, 1575 E. 174th St.
New York City, N. Y.

Wow! What a hang-up that would be, Mike! Although Marvel Girl could probably remove Hank's ingrown toenail telekinetically. Hmm—thanks for giving us the first really practical use for her ever-lovin' power!

Dear Stan, Roy, and Werner:

To quote a good friend by the name of Seymour Gottkin, "Good grief!" Do you mean to tell me that I've been absolutely panic-stricken for a month, and now I find out she's been transferred? Yeeesh! Of course, I'm referring to Jean. When I read X-Men #24, I had a relapse of the attack I nearly had when I read issue #23. But then, when I saw Ted Roberts, things were A-OK again. I hope we'll be seeing lots more of him. You know, he looks a lot like Bobby Drake, if you consider the haircut, hair color, and the fact that they both have fairly high cheekbones. Speaking of Bobby, this is an intense plea to see more of him alone in action, as in that terrific story, "If Iceman Should Fail!" But especially, I want to see much more of Zelda and her pal, Bernard the poet. That Bernard is really good! Besides, some of his stuff may become classic. So what if Hank McCoy worries because he can understand it? I understand it, and it doesn't worry me. Of course, I'm no Hank McCoy! About this sudden triangle, I've been thinking that I can solve it in as much time as it takes Warren to find me. All right, so I'm fickle!

Patricia Turner, 1714 Nason St.
Alameda, Calif. 94501

You, Pat? Never! So long as you remain ever steadfast, ever faithful in your devotion to mighty Marvel, the tawdry taint of fickleness shall ne'er besmirch thy name—shall ne'er becloud thy horizon—shall ne'er be uttered in the presence of the benevolent bullpen! This do we swear, by the curly locks on the tousled head of hairy Professor X!

NEXT ISH: Mutant lovers of the world—unite! As a matter of fact, that's just what you did—till we were buried under an avalanche of rabidly rapturous requests for more mutant foes to pit against our ever-lovin' X-Men! So, hang onto your MMMS buttons, 'cause here comes . . . the Banshee! (And wait'll you get a look at his super-power!) But, that ain't all! Within these palpitating pages you'll also meet . . . the Ogre! All this and the mind-shattering Mimic, too! Who says this isn't the Marvel Age of Bombastic Bargains!

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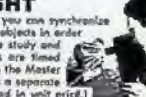


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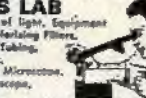
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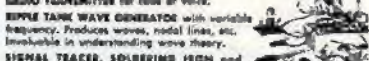
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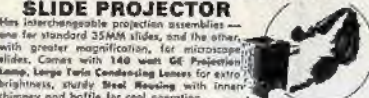
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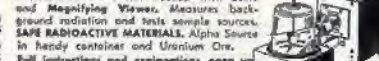
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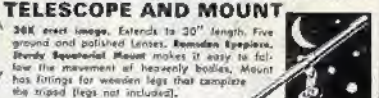
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